

# 40 YEARS AGO

## 1952 EARLY INCIDENT RECALLED

The death of Ald Dan Bourke, TD, brought to mind a political incident in which he was involved - probably his first of many that were to follow - early in the year 1911. It was soon after George V had ascended to the throne and some Irish Loyalists in the Broad Street district displayed the Union Flag. At that time the Fenian Brotherhood, which had never really ceased to exist, was making another bid to organise the youth of Ireland.

A group of Irish Republican Brotherhood decided to remove the emblem. One of the men who seized and made off with the flag was a young wagon-builder working for the Great Southern Railway.

His name was Dan (afterwards Deputy) Bourke, who was destined to represent Fianna Fáil for 25 years in Dáil Éireann and hold the exalted office of Mayor of Limerick for the record period of five years in succession.

Another of the group was Councillor John Dalton. He was the unfortunate one, for when the police arrived on the scene he was captured and afterwards sentenced to a months imprisonment. He also lost his job in the railway.